FFA LEADERSHIP FOR AMERICA

South Carolina's

# Young Farmer & FFA

Magazine

SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

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FRANK R. STOVER
BOX 52
PELION, SC 29123

The Official Publication of the Young Farmers & FFA of South Carolina

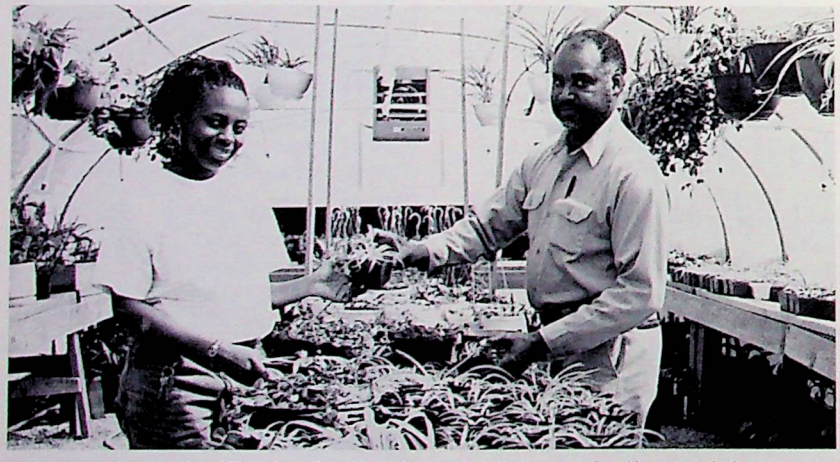
# FFA Chapter on the Move

Volunteering in the local Adopt-A-Highway program puts these students "out on the streets" for a good cause.

Just take one look at the Holly Hill - Roberts FFA Chapter (if you can catch them long enough!) and you will see a group that wastes neither time nor money when it comes to organizing activities and utilizing community resources to support the FFA.

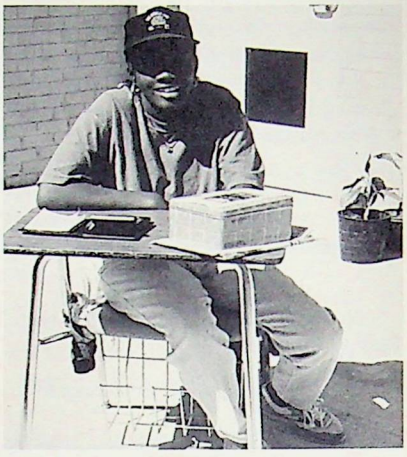
Faced once again with the expenses of the annual FFA Parent-Member Banquet scheduled for early spring, the chapter sponsored a plant sale at the school on March 19th from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Distributing flyers around the community and placing an ad in the local paper resulted in the arrival of a multitude of early morning shoppers to the sale. The funds raised at the sale will be used to defray the cost of the dinner which honors FFA members for their participation and recognizes the parents for their support. In discussing the reason for choosing the school as the location of the banquet each year, FFA Advisor James Ulmer stated, "We use every opportunity to try to get the parents out to the school. We like to keep them involved and this allows them to see exactly what the students are doing."

By taking cuttings from houseplants and flowers acquired some time ago, the students raised their plants in a greenhouse located on campus at the ag department. By using this method to grow new plants, the students gained hands-on experience with propogation techniques, soil types, and growing conditions. In fact, the chapter even makes their own soil mixture - sand-free - which they use in growing their plants and also sell to the public.



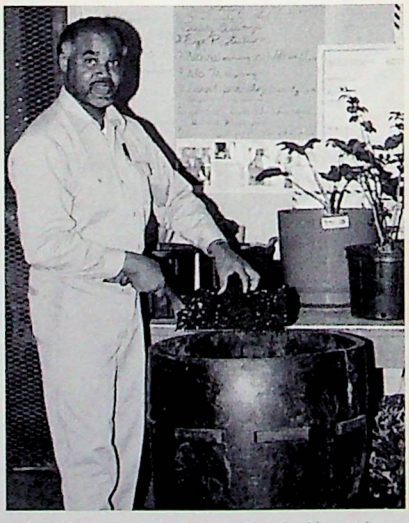
A junior at Holly Hill-Roberts, Jequetta Collier keeps track of the day's sales while others help the customers select their purchases.

In addition to their floriculture activities, the chapter remains highly visible within the community by regularly participating in the local Adopt-A-Highway program. The stretch of road they are responsible for keeping clean is strategically located adjacent to the school campus; as is the Adopt-A-Highway sign with their chapter name across it. (It's instant publicity - and better yet, it's free!) Incidentally, Mr. Ulmer's ag students were the first and only department in the school to volunteer for this program.



Senior Regina Perry and FFA Advisor James Ulmer display some of the plants grown from cuttings in their on-campus greenhouse.

Other projects currently in the works by the 87 member chapter include renovating and repainting a utility trailer, building a barbecue, and organizing a tour of the FFA Camp in Cherry Grove in April. Without a doubt, these chapter members are well on their way to becoming excellent business and community leaders.



James Ulmer explains the method involved in creating their own soil mixture.

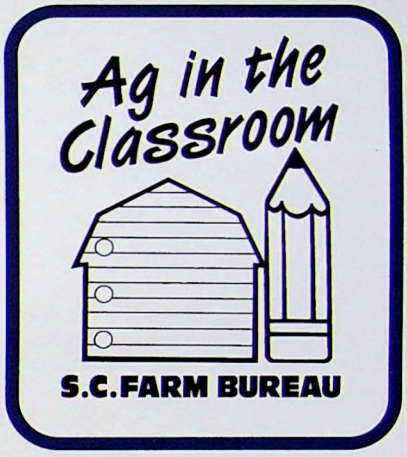
# Filling The Gap

*Editor's Note: The following is a feature story submitted by Robbie Myers, Coordinator of Special Programs for the S.C Farm Bureau Federation.*

Every one of us familiar with agriculture knows that Americans are blessed with an abundant food and fiber supply. This is because today's high-tech agri-business allows a few producers (less than 2% of the population) to provide for everyone. Society has changed over the years, along with people's values, and something that we understand and appreciate is taken for granted by many adults and almost all young kids today, especially in urban areas.

There are numerous reasons for this but the bottom line is that we live in a generally "ag illiterate" society. The best answer to the problem at the present time is to educate the other 98% of the population that food does not just magically appear in grocery stores, and cotton does not just happen to be available at a clothing factory. The raw materials for these products that we all depend on every day are made possible by the farmer, but somehow, he/she is not recognized by the general public.

The SC Farm Bureau has recently started an "Ag In The Classroom" program that attempts to integrate agriculture into existing K-6 grade curriculums, concentrating heavily on the subject of science. The goal of the program is to educate teachers in these grades as to how agriculture affects all of us each day, and how they can teach this to their classes through subject matter that they already cover on a daily basis. SCFB can provide teachers with a resource manual listing materials available from various agricultural organizations. For example, "The Burger Book", which shows how all of the components of an all time favorite - the hamburger -begin on a farm, is available to teachers in grades 4-6. A book marker listing various agriculture facts is also available to teachers at any grade level.




The means of reaching teachers vary from one-on-one contact by a staff or volunteer county member; to utilizing teacher in-service training days; to accessing groups of teachers at summer workshops. Previous workshops have been a cooperative effort with Clemson University, the SC Department of Agriculture, the SC Pork Board and the SC Beef Board.

The need to educate Americans of the dependence we all have on agriculture will continue to increase as more and more young children grow up in an urban society. If agriculture is to receive the support needed to be successful, this program must be effective - *we must "Fill The Gap!"*

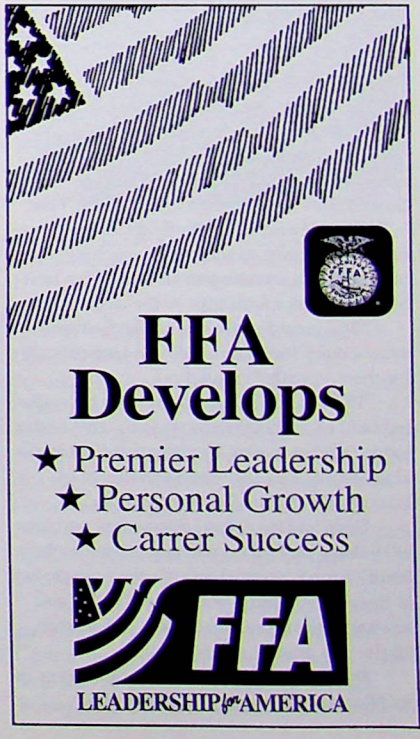
Currently, AITC is like a young corn seedling just breaking the crust of the earth - it has a long way to go to reach maturity, but with the proper guidance it will become a useful product in the future. Any input you may have to help nurture this program would be appreciated.

For more information on this program, or if you would like to volunteer to locate and work with teachers in your area, contact Robbie Myers or Jim Weldon in the SCFB state office at (803) 796-6700. Let's get agriculture the credit and recognition it deserves!

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar so that you won't miss out on these exciting FFA activities.

| | |
|---|---|
| **June 7-10** | State FFA Convention, Clemson, South Carolina |
| **June 8** | State Contests, Clemson, South Carolina |
| **June 8** | FFA Alumni Annual Conference, Clemson, South Carolina |
| **June 13-17** | Regular FFA Camp, Cherry Grove, South Carolina |
| **June 16** | SCYFA National Institute Committee, 4:00 p.m., Cayce, South Carolina |
| **June 21-24** | Leadership FFA Camp, Cherry Grove, South Carolina |
| **June 27-31** | Regular FFA Camp, Cherry Grove, South Carolina |

# Young Farmer Loves the Life

*Watson Dorn, state's Young Farmer of the Year, works with holstein calves on Edgefield County farm.*

***Editor's Note:*** *The following story has been submitted and is being reprinted with the permission of The State Newspaper and Mr. Bill Hughes (Business Writer).*

Watson Dorn says the notion of leaving his family farm is unthinkable, but if he did, it would probably be for a teaching job in town.

"And even then, I wouldn't consider anything else but teaching agriculture," said South Carolina's Young Farmer of the Year.

The 32-year-old Edgefield County dairyman says he gets to scratch the teaching itch at least twice a year when children from nearby schools take field trips to the farm.

"It's great for the kids to see firsthand what a dairy looks like and how farmers care for their animals," he said.

The care that Dorn showers on his milking herd of 200 Holsteins was apparent to the judges for the Young Farmer award, an annual recognition by the state Department of Education's Young Farmer program.

Dorn and his father, Jimmy, are partners in Hickory Hill Farm, which has been in their family for six generations. It's the home today of three generations: Watson, wife Lisa and newborn son, Daniel; his father and mother, Marie; and grandmother Maysie.

The operation is spread over 800 acres in the Northside Community of Edgefield County, which has some of the state's best dairy land.

Like most farms in South Carolina, the acreage was planted in cotton and other row crops until Dorn's grandfather turned to dairy production shortly after World War II.

In those days dairying was an appealing alternative to crops, but the path since has been rocky for much of the industry. Low prices for their products have forced hundreds of South Carolina dairy producers out of business.

The Dorns have survived, however, in large part by keeping abreast of new technology and paying attention to business. The farm participates in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, an industry program that helps producers keep track of milking performance.

The herd also is on a computerized feeding system that lets Dorn calculate the optimum ration for each animal.

Dorn also pays attention to his herd's bloodlines. All of his animals are registered stock, and he does his own artificial insemination work, a technique he perfected while an agricultural education student at Clemson University.

Like most U.S. producers, Dorn is facing an important decision about even newer technology in the months ahead. The issue is whether he should treat his animals with a controversial hormone called Bovine Somatrophin that can boost a dairy cow's milk production by up to 20 percent.

Dorn has studied BST and, like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, is convinced it is a safe material. "I would have no qualms at all in letting Daniel have milk from cows that have been treated with BST," he said.

Dorn's farming philosophy is conservative. Neither he nor his father take much stock in government agricultural programs nor want to participate in them.

"This is a 'self-run' farm, the elder Dorn declares. "That means we take care of ourselves."

Watson says the farm has provided a good living for the family. "It's put me and my brothers through college and we've made a good living here. My dream is to make it even better so my son can carry it on if he wants to," he said.

Watson and his wife met at a 4-H competition at Clemson when he was showing cattle and she was a member of a poultry judging team from neighboring Saluda County. They dated through high school and married in 1985 after she received an accounting degree from Clemson.

Today she is a CPS and works as an internal auditor at Greenwood Mills. She loves the job, but admits that it has been difficult recently because her bookwork has kept her away from Watson and Daniel.

# Upstate Welcomes Young Farmers Association

*The South Carolina Association of the Young Farmers of America kicked off the new year with a little bit of business and a whole lot of fun at their 46th Annual State Convention in January.*

Despite the record-breaking cold temperatures that had settled on the upstate, it was a typically warm gathering of young farmers from around the state that convened at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville, South Carolina for the 46th Annual Young Farmers Convention.

Some of the important orders of business discussed this year included a recap of the 1993 Young Farmer Summer Tour by Rex Bates of the Hickory Tavern Chapter, as well as future plans for the 1994 Tour. President-Elect Gene Forrest of the Edgefield chapter also updated

*(L-R) Past-president Andrew Carter passes the gavel to new Young Farmer President Gene Forrest of Johnston, SC.*

The two day convention, held January 14-15, combined business meetings with banquets, awards ceremonies, and evenings of entertainment for members and their families.

guests on the progress of plans for the 1995 National Young Farmer Institute to be held in Charleston, South Carolina in December of that year.

*(L-R) Presented with plaques for their dedicated service to the South Carolina Young Farmers Association, Steve Willis, W.P. Lloyd and Earl Frick were honored during the awards banquet.*

Saturday dawned with a busy schedule involving the presentation of new state officers, Young Farmer awards ceremonies, and the recognition of agricultural sponsors and contributors. Andrew Carter and the other 1993 State Officers were honored for their hard work and months of dedication, and the 1994 Young Farmer State Officers were announced. They are: Gene Forrest of Johnston [President], Ronald Myers of Bowman [President-Elect], Rex Bates of

*(L-R) The recipient of the Chapter President Award for District IV, Tommy Turner was one of four outstanding members honored for their contributions throughout the year.*

Hickory Tavern [Vice-President/District I], David Wilson of Chester [Vice-President/District II], David DeWitt of Darlington [Vice-President/District III], Richard Rentz of Branchville [Vice-President/District IV], and Andrew Carter of Erhardt [Past President]. In keeping with tradition, the newly elected president Gene Forrest was presented with a tractor from Jack Spratling, Area Sales Manager of Case International, Inc. in Orangeburg, SC.

A number of other agricultural sponsors and exhibitors such as AgraTech Seeds, Inc., Central Soya, Inc., and Archer Daniels Midland were also present to meet and talk with the Young Farmers and to present awards to indi-

# Young Farmers of America

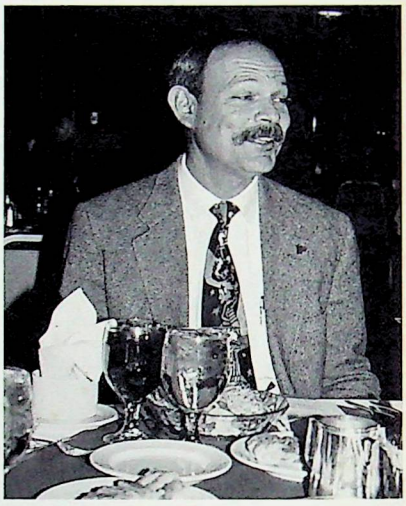
vidual and chapter contest winners. Coburg Dairy, Inc. even provided coffee and danishes to guests touring the exhibits on Saturday!

And as always, one of the most anticipated awards presented during the annual convention is that of South Carolina Young Farmer of the Year. Of the three district finalists competing for the honor, Watson Dorn of the Saluda chapter won the competition which is sponsored by the Farm Credit Services of South Carolina. Dorn operates a successful dairy farm and for his accomplishments he received an engraved bowl and a cash prize. Runners-up included William James of the Hillcrest (Dalzell) Chapter and Richard Rentz of the Colleton-Bamberg Chapter. Both of these men won the Young Farmer award for their respective districts.

Also presented with plaques for their outstanding service to the association and to agriculture were Steve Willis, W.P. Lloyd, and Earl Frick.

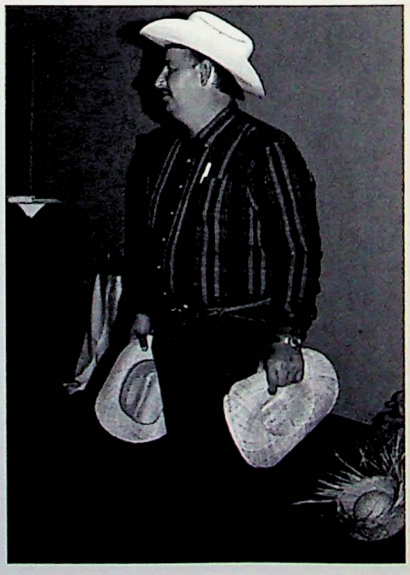
Once the awards ceremonies and business sessions had come to a close, everyone relaxed during a final evening of fun and entertainment at the "Western Party and Auction" held Saturday night. Guests participating in the "Hat-Tossing Contest" and the timed "Hunt in the Hay Contest" received poker chips that they used to bid on prizes during the auction. So, as you can see, there was definitely something for everyone at this gathering!

*1994 Young Farmer of the Year Watson Dorn and his wife Lisa receive their awards from Hugh Knight of Edisto Farm Credit Services of SC.*



*Steve Willis enjoys the food (and conversation!) at the banquet held Saturday night.*

*Ronald Myers of the Bowman Chapter displays the "pecan picker" he received during the Chapter Contest Awards ceremony.*



*Bill Nance waits for more participants to try their luck at the Hat Toss contest during the Western Party and Auction.*

# What's On Your Mind?

Be a part of...

South Carolina's

# Young Farmer & FFA

Magazine

by submitting articles, photographs (black and white), ideas, thoughts, points of view and bits of information to:

Laura Johnson
Young Farmer & FFA Magazine
One Harbison Way, Suite 105
Columbia, SC 29212

Please keep submissions typed and under 500 words.
Include name and phone number.

# ention

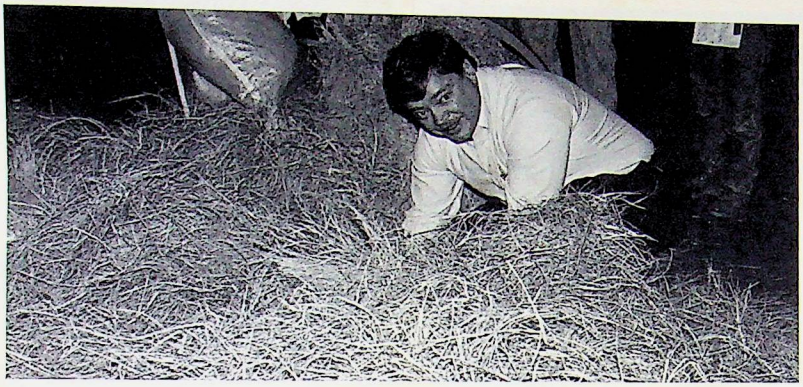
epares to announce the Outstanding Service Award winners for 1994.

Congratulations to Wesley and Mary Edmunds, the Energy Efficiency Award winners for District II (Clover Chapter).

Capturing first and second place state awards respectively in the Five Acre Cotton Contest were Clark Stillinger (l) and Buddy Rivers (r), both of the Hillcrest Chapter in Sumter.

The 1994 Young Farmer Officers (L-R): Gene Forrest, President, Ronald Myers, President-Elect, Rex Bates, District I Vice-President, David Wilson, District II Vice-President, and Richard Rentz, District VI Vice-President. (Not pictured: David DeWitt, District III Vice-President and Andrew Carter, Past-President)

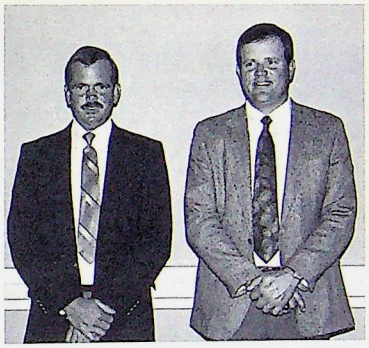
# 46th Annual State Convention



*Trying to "beat the clock", Dr. Dale A. Law searches through the hay for hidden poker chips before his time runs out.*

*Bill Nance prepares to announce the Outstanding Service Award winners for 1994.*

*Congratulations to Wesley and Mary Edmunds, the Energy Efficiency Award winners for District II (Clover Chapter).*



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*The 1994 Young Farmer Officers (L-R): Gene Forrest, President, Ronald Myers, President-Elect, Rex Bates, District I Vice-President, David Wilson, District II Vice-President, and Richard Rentz, District VI Vice-President. (Not pictured: David DeWitt, District III Vice-President and Andrew Carter, Past-President)*

# Young Farmers of America 46th Annual State Convention Continued

*The Best of the Best. The three state finalists in the 1994 Young Farmer of the Year contest (L-R): Watson Dorn (Saluda Chapter), William James (Hillcrest/Dalzell Chapter), Richard Rentz (Colleton-Bamberg Chapter), and Hugh Knight of Edisto Farm Credit Services of SC.*

*Participating in the Non-Irrigated Soybean Contest sponsored by Archer Daniels Midland Company, these district winners represented their chapters in the state competition (L-R): Joe Derrick (Edgefield Chapter), Ray Jameson (Edisto Chapter), and David DeWitt (St. Johns Chapter).*

*Mr. and Mrs. Chesley Brown were also guests at this year's convention. The sales manager of Jacques Seed Company in Bolton, North Carolina, Mr. Brown presented the Membership and Attendance Awards to the chapters.*

**YOUNG FARMER OF THE YEAR:**
Watson Dorn [Edgefield]

**OTHER NOMINEES:**
William James [Hillcrest/Dalzell]
Richard Rentz [Colleton-Bamberg]

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD:**
Steve Willis [Westminster]
W.P. Lloyd [ ]
Earl Frick [Florence]

**1994 STATE OFFICERS:**
President:
Gene Forrest, Jr. [Edgefield]
President Elect:
Ronald Myers [Bowman]
District I Vice-President:
Rex Bates [Hickory Tavern]
District II Vice-President:
David Wilson [Chester]
District III Vice-President:
David DeWitt [Darlington]
District IV Vice-President:
Richard Rentz [Branchville]
Past President:
Andrew Carter [Ehrhardt]

**MEMBERSHIP AWARDS:**
Largest Number:
Largest Percent:
Largest Attendance:

**CHAPTER CONTEST AWARDS:**
District I:
Saluda Chapter
District II:
Hickory Grove Chapter
District III:
Hillcrest Chapter
District IV:
Colleton-Bamberg Chapter*

**CHAPTER PRESIDENT AWARDS:**
District I:
Theo Williams [Edgefield]
District II:
William Nance [York]*
District III:
Buddy Rivers [Hillcrest/Sumter]
District IV:
Tommy Turner [Bowman]

**FARM SERVICE CENTER AWARDS:**
State Winner:
Francis McKee [Hickory Tavern]*

Second Place:
Barry Berry [Bowman]

**BEEF PRODUCTION AWARDS:**
State Winner:
Henry Herndon [Colleton-Bamberg]*
Second Place:
Charles Long [Saluda]

**DAIRY PRODUCTION AWARDS:**
State Winner:
Jerry Anderson [Bowman]*
Second Place:
Billy Dean Priester [Colleton-Bamberg]

**SWINE PRODUCTION AWARDS:**
State Winner:
Johnny Crider [Colleton-Bamberg]*
Second Place:
John Simpson [Crescent]

**5-ACRE COTTON CONTEST:**
State Winner:
Clark Stillinger [Edisto]*
Second Place:
Buddy Rivers [Hillcrest]

**NON-IRRIGATED CORN AWARDS:**
District III
Mickey Johnson [Hillcrest]
District IV
William Jameson [Edisto]*

**IRRIGATED CORN AWARDS:**
District II
Ricky Kneece [Pelion]*
District III
Buddy Rivers [Hillcrest]
District IV
William Jameson [Edisto]

**NON-IRRIGATED SOYBEAN AWARDS:**
District I
Joe Alvin Derrick [Edgefield]
District III
David DeWitt [St. Johns]
District IV
Ray Jameson [Edisto]*

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARDS:**
District II
Wesley Edmunds [Clover]
District IV
David Funchess [Bowman]*

# The National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program

*Submitted by Trish German as part of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation's Home Conservation Series.*

South Carolina has more certified backyard wildlife habitats than any other state in the nation, acording to a 1991 survey by the National Wildlife Federation. Over 630 South Carolina families "garden for wildlife" and in doing so, answer a critical need for wildlife in urban and suburban settings. The National Wildlife Federation began its BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM in 1973 as a way to acknowledge the efforts of people who were "gardening for wildlife" around their homes-from small city gardens to large, suburban lots.

The program encourages everyone-homeowner, teacher, leader-to plan their landscaping with the needs of wildlife in mind. Why? Because wildlife is enjoyed by nearly everyone; and because habitat restoration is a critical need for wildlife in urban and suburban settings where building and development infringe on natural areas that wildlife needs in order to survive.

Providing wildlife habitat in your yard-food, water, cover, and places to raise young-is easy to achieve and the results are beautiful to be around. As one habitat provider recently wrote: " The important thing is the pleasure that our yard has given us. It is such a joy to look out the window and see the rabbits chasing around the bushes and squirrels playing "tag" in the maple trees. There is no end to the activity."

As a first step in providing backyard wildlife habitat, you should assess your yard or garden space as it is right now, to identify the habitat elements that already exist for wildlife. Plants that provide food-seeds, fruits and nuts-are important to birds and squirrels, for example. A dense area of shrubbery or stand of evergreen trees will provide cover-protection from wind and predators. A dying tree in the corner of the yard may provide space-in knotholes or woodpecker excavations-for a den of flying squirrels, a family of crested flycatchers, or a colony of honeybees. Plants are the key to attracting wildlife, but water is also important to wildlife for drinking and bathing. For many types of wildlife, water also offers cover and a place for raising young. Water can be provided in many ways-with birdbaths, a small pool, or simply a natural spring or existing stream.

If you're in the Washington, DC area, be sure to visit the National Wildlife Federation's own demonstration Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Located in Vienna, VA, this wildlife-attracting landscape features over 50 kinds of wildlife-attracting flowers, trees, and shrubs. The demonstration habitat is located at 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA. While the habitat is open daily, Laurel Ridge Conservation Education Center is open weekdays 8 AM - 4:30 PM. (Both of these locations make for great field trips!)

For a more lengthy, informative booklet on Backyard Wildlife Habitat, and an application so that you might certify your own property as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat, send a post card to: Backyard Wildlife Habitat, Department BHI, National Wildlife Federation, 1400 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266 **or** contact the S.C. Wildlife Federation at P.O. Box 61159, Columbia, SC 29260 for more information.

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

To become a member of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation send your tax deductible contribution of $ 25 or more to:

**South Carolina Wildlife Federation**
**P.O. Box 61159**
**Columbia, SC 29260**
**(803) 782-8626**

# FFA Doesn't Have To End When You Graduate From High School

*Alumni workshops like this one at the national convention are designed to assist in expanding the reach of FFA in the community.*

*(Editor's Note: The following article is submitted by Dr. Art Jensen, Acting Executive Secretary Treasurer of the South Carolina FFA Alumni.)*

Has the FFA made a difference in your life? Do you wish it could go on and on? **It can.** Today it is possible for you to continue enjoying the benefits of the FFA through the South Carolina FFA Alumni, an organization made up of former FFA members, collegiate and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members, and any others interested in the FFA and agriculture.

The purposes of the South Carolina FFA Alumni are:

1. To support and promote the FFA organization, FFA and agricultural education on local, state and national levels.

2. To provide a tie to the FFA and to assist the FFA and agricultural education personnel to involve members and others interested in supporting worthy activities.

3. To promote greater knowledge of the agricultural industry and support education in agriculture.

4. To cooperate with all FFA Alumni Affiliates in South Carolina and the National FFA Alumni Association.

5. To promote and maintain an appreciation of the American free enterprise system.

6. To promote the personal development aspect of the FFA.

The organization has local, state and a national affiliation. Membership in the S.C. Carolina FFA Alumni can be made by paying annual dues of $ 11 ($ 7 is for membership in the National FFA Alumni and $ 4 is for the S.C. FFA Alumni membership). Lifetime memberships are available at a $ 150. Lifetime memberships return $ 2 annually to the state and upon the death of the life member, a memorial scholarship equal to the amount of life membership dues paid may be presented, in the name of the life member, to the local chapter or state association, to further an FFA member's education in agriculture. You may join the alumni by making payments to:

South Carolina FFA Alumni
Arthur Jensen, Acting Executive
Secretary/Treasurer
102 Daleview Circle
Clemson, SC 29631

Local affiliates can be formed by having ten dues-paying members that are organized to work with your local FFA chapter. The chapter should have the blessing of the school administration, develop a constitution and a set of bylaws, and make application to the South Carolina Alumni Association for membership. Details for this procedure, and many other useful suggestions for organization and operation of an alumni affiliate are covered in the FFA Alumni Manual. Your FFA advisor should have a copy available. If not, he can obtain one by writing to the above address.

The local affiliate plans its own program of work, concentrating on ways the local FFA and agricultural program can be assisted, improved and expanded as needed in your community. Cooperation on the statewide basis is also an important aspect as many issues concerning agriculture today have to be promoted on the state level.

The South Carolina FFA Alumni will hold its first annual meeting June 7 and 8 at Clemson, just prior to, and in conjunction with the S.C. FFA Convention. We hope every FFA Alumni member and their spouse or guest will attend. This meeting will start off with registration at 7:00 p.m. and a dutch treat dinner at 7:30 on that Tuesday evening. Wednesday activities will include a morning program on help for FFA Alumni members in organizing and making your local alumni affiliate work. The afternoon session will be for the purpose of approving the newly developed SC FFA Alumni Constitution and Bylaws, and developing a program of work for the state. This will require the participation of every member. This is our first such program of work and ways will have to be developed to fund and carry such a program to completion. Initially, we have been asked to consider ways in which we as alumni can assist in sponsoring a beginning teacher weekend workshop. Further details of the meeting will be available through the next Alumni Newsletter.

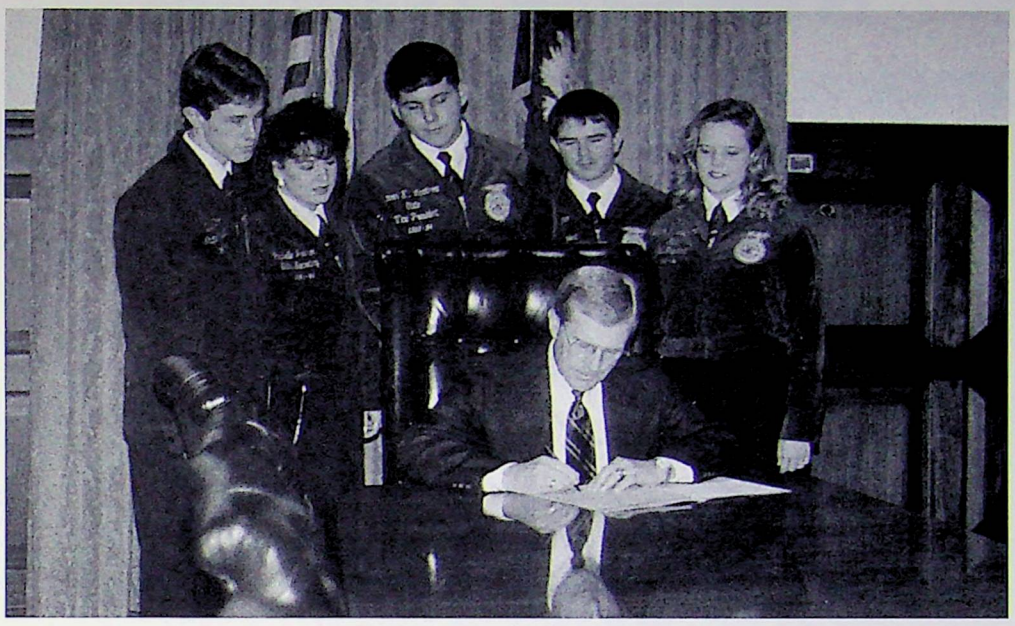
## BEST OF LUCK!

*Best wishes to FFA Advisors Tommy Harmon of Lexington Applied Technology Center and Frank Stover, Jr. of Pelion High School as they travel with their Soil Judging Teams to the National Land Judging Competition in Oklahoma City next month!*

***-and-***

*Good luck to all who are participating in the State Forestry Contest in the Belton-Honea Path/Ware Shoals area on May 14th.*

# Getting The Word Out



*(L-R) David Nixon, Rachelle Jackson, Warren Larrimore, Joey Gunter, and Faith Lawrimore look on as Governor Carroll Campbell signs the FFA Week Proclamation.*

National FFA Week provides the perfect opportunity each year for students to celebrate the heritage of the FFA and to share its history and spirit with surrounding communities through activities such as working at local charities, organizing FFA food drives, adopting a highway or park to clean up, or even starting "plant-a-tree campaign" in the community.

In addition to these and many other popular activities which are often on the week-long agenda, some chapters even go the extra mile and brainstorm more creative ways to promote their message. For instance, the chapter officers from the Belton-Honea Path FFA Chapter located in upstate South Carolina visited the WSSL-FM radio station in Greenville to record a series of public service announcements promoting National FFA Week. The announcements were broadcast throughout the designated week of February 19-26th. And Dan Poston's Marion High FFA Chapter sponsored a daily trivia contest in the school with such questions as "How many people attend the National Convention?" and "What does BOAC stand for?" Hundreds of students responded for the chance to win one of two $10 gift certificates to the greenhouse!

*Talk about a star student! Dr. and Mrs. Jack Black reminisce with Governor Campbell about his high school days in Mr. Black's agriculture class.*

*Belton Honea Path FFA Chapter Officers "take ten" from recording public service announcements to pose with the likeness of country music singer Cathy Mattea. Pictured are: Shane Elrod, Barry Horne, Jeremy Hall, Johnny Johnson, Kenneth Brock, Daniel Cooley, Brent Parnell, Gary Hughes, and Mark Gambrell.*

Crowning the spirit and purpose of the week, the state Officers Team traveled to the state capitol on February 15th to take part in a special ceremony with Governor Campbell. During the ceremony, the officers were introduced to Governor Campbell and participated as he signed the official proclamation recognizing the celebration of FFA Week in South Carolina. Also present were state Ag Ed Associate Dr. Dale A. Law and Dr. Jack Black of the South Carolina Cooperative Council. Interestingly enough, Black was Governor Campbell's agriculture teacher from high school and he and Campbell entertained everyone with recollections of Campbell raising a calf back then!

Clearly, whether on the state or local level, all of these individuals definitely succeeded in getting the word out about FFA!

# Being "Made for Excellence" is an FFA Tradition

This is definitely one of the messages inspired by the Made For Excellence Program.

Every year, the National FFA sponsors one of the finest personal development seminars found anywhere in the form of the Made for Excellence (MFE) Conference. Taking time from their school year to travel across the country, former outstanding state and national officers conduct the seminars and share their own ideas and personal experiences with the fellow FFA'ers. This program strives to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to set and achieve goals in all areas of a balanced life - whether mental, physical, spiritual or social - or all of the above!

State FFA Vice-President Chris Hicks and Aiken FFA member Melissa Luttrell direct their attention to the activities directed by members of the National FFA Organization.

This year, South Carolina was one of thirty-three states holding the MFE conference to help students set goals, identify strengths and weaknesses, and improve their self-image through positive thinking. Approximately 35 FFA members from chapters across the state attended the conference which was held February 5th and 6th at the Ramada Inn on Two Notch Road in Columbia, South Carolina.

According to Joe Wilson, whose Aiken Chapter was represented at the meeting, "Activities were held throughout the weekend to help the members set goals, take personal inventories, express appreciation to any and all who may have helped them, and remind them of the importance of making the right choices in their lives. Although the conference had serious implications for those in attendance, it was carried out with lighthearted, fun activities designed to capture the students' attention."

Emily Bennet and Stewart Kennedy were the counselors flown in by the National FFA Organization for the Columbia conference. Bennett, a past state officer from Oregon, is currently a student at New Mexico State University. Kennedy, also a past state officer, is from Oklahoma and is now a student at Oklahoma State University.

Former state FFA officers Emily Bennett and Stewart Kennedy conducted the workshop for the South Carolina conference.

Aiken FFA members and SC State Officers pose with the MFE Conference leaders at the end of the weekend of motivational activities and speakers. (L-R): Jeff Comerford, Emily Bennett, David Nixon, Teresa Williams, Melissa Luttrell, Warren Larrimore, and Stewart Kennedy.

# Reorganization Streamlines Forestry Commission

Editor's note: The following is a feature story submitted by Ken Cabe, Fire Prevention Coordinator for the South Carolina Forestry Commission, regarding its field reorganization plan and subsequent changes in their fire tower systems. (July 15, 1993)

In 1992, the Forestry Commission embarked on a field reorganization plan designed to bring its services closer to the people. The plan, scheduled for full implementation this fall, will make it easier for farmers to contact local Forestry Commission officials.

Perhaps the biggest change occurred October 1 when the Commission closed its sixty year old fire tower system. According to State Forester Hugh Ryan, this move was a result of improved public wildfire reporting and reduced visibility from towers due to atmospheric conditions. Ryan said he expected to be able to offer continued employment to most of the personnel presently employed as tower operators.

"About three-fourths of our wildfire reports came from fire departments, 911, or the general public," said Ryan. Supplementing this will be increased aerial fire detection using contract aircraft and Forestry Commission planes. Ryan said this approach has been adopted by most other southern states and has proved effective, both operationally and from a cost standpoint.

Each of the Forestry Commission's seven administrative districts has been divided into two work units. These units, called Areas, are managed by Area Foresters. Area Offices are open for forest management assistance and administrative matters Monday through Friday.

Communication functions once handled by over a hundred towers will be handled through fourteen new dispatch centers, one at each Area Office. The dispatch centers take forest fire management calls; including wildfire reports, burning notifications, and smoke management requests.

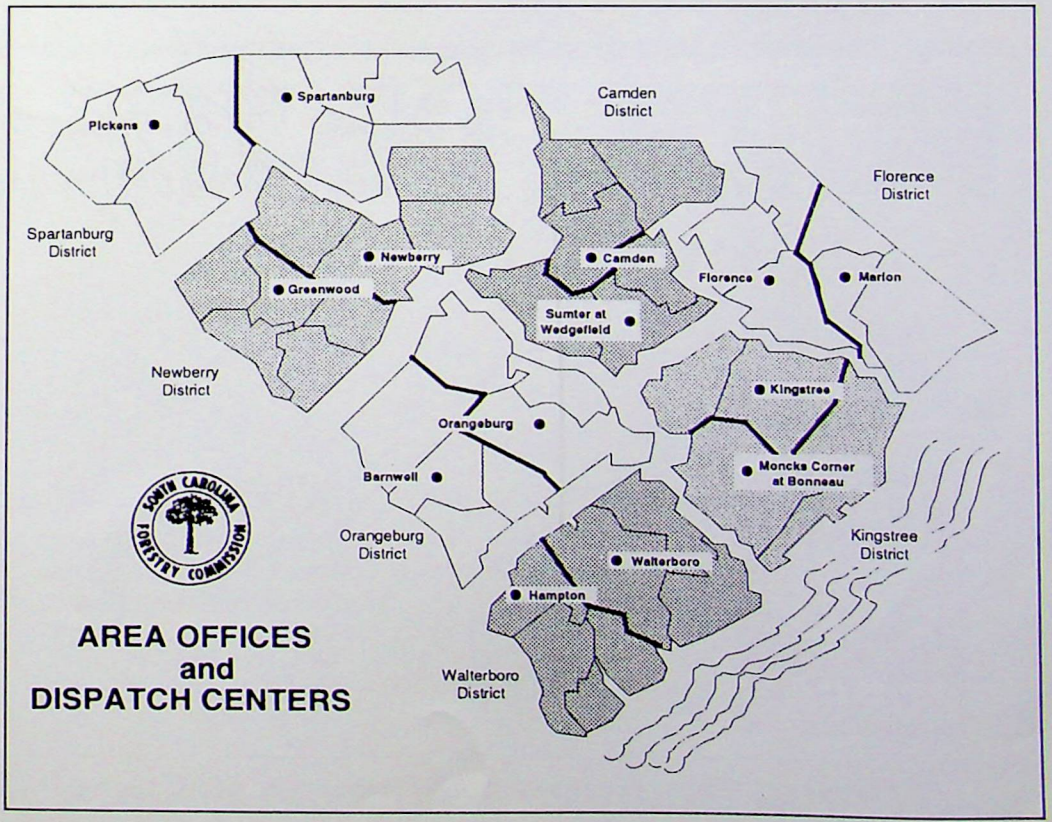
For wildfire reporting, the Forestry Commission is participating in 911 systems where they are available. If you need to report a wildfire and cannot reach 911, a toll-free number will be installed at each dispatch center. This number will be listed on the inside front cover of new telephone directories as they are published.

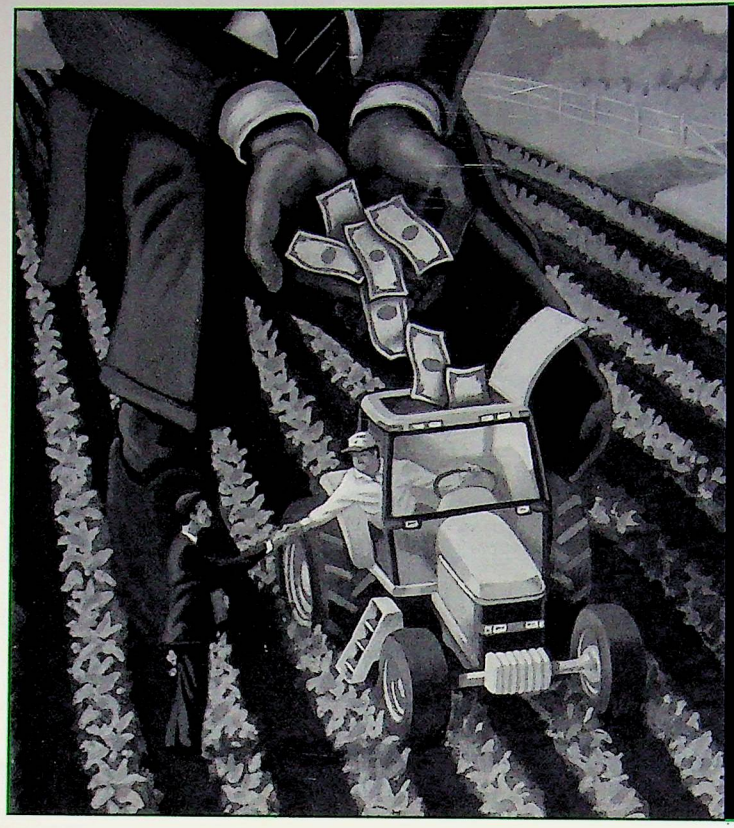
The same toll-free number can be used to notify the Forestry Commission of any burning you plan to do. Notification is prescribed by state law, and includes agricultural burning such as brush, crop stubble, land clearing debris, and prescribed burning in woodlands. The dispatch centers take burning notifications from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Remember, the toll-free number may be used for any fire management contact, including wildfire reporting; 911 is for emergency contacts only.

The dispatch centers operate seven days a week. Between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., calls to the local dispatch centers will be automatically forwarded to the Forestry Commission's central dispatch center in Columbia. The central dispatch will handle emergency calls only.

If you already have a Forestry Commission office in your county, you may continue to use it to contact the County Ranger or Project Forester. These offices will be maintained as long as they contribute significantly to the Forestry Commission's service in the community.

Call it reorganization. Call it modernization. The bottom line is still protecting and developing South Carolina's forest resource. "The needs of South Carolina are changing, and we're committed to meeting those needs," said Ryan.





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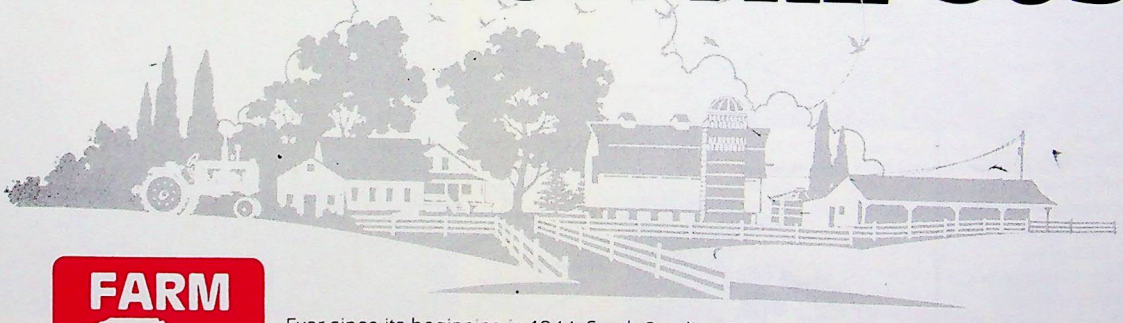

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